

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application and are subject to restriction. Applicants confirm the election of group I, directed to claims 1-14. Claims 15-24 have been withdrawn from consideration and have been canceled. Claims 1-14 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gurevich (U.S. Patent Number 6,499,036). Moreover, claims 1-4 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suver (U.S. Patent Number 6,016,497). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 and 8-11 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include the features of a table of objects and pre-computed values. Each object has an associated type in a hierarchy of types. The pre-computed values comprise information used in a hierarchical search to discern objects based on type (see application, as originally filed, paragraphs [0074] – [0076], for example).

Both Gurevich and Suver fail to disclose or suggest pre-computed values that comprise information used in a hierarchical search to discern objects based on type. Gurevich describes objects that embody data items, and an application program that builds an object hierarchy to embody data items and to interface them to the rest of the application program. Tokens are described that are used to construct a data stream. The tokens may be used to represent information in the data stream about the hierarchical topology that relates data items in the data stream (column 29, lines 49-62). Although Gurevich describes that a data item is contained by a value token 1876, and that other tokens contain information about the data item (column 30, lines 41-54), these tokens do not comprise pre-computed values that are used to discern objects based on type in a hierarchical search.

Suver describes accessing and storing information embedded in a column of a database row, and may be used for data that is logically multi-valued or hierarchical. When a row is stored, each column includes information such as a column identifier, a column data type identifier, and a column data value corresponding to the information of the data item

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(column 9, lines 22-25). However, none of this information comprises pre-computed values that are used to discern objects based on type in a hierarchical search.

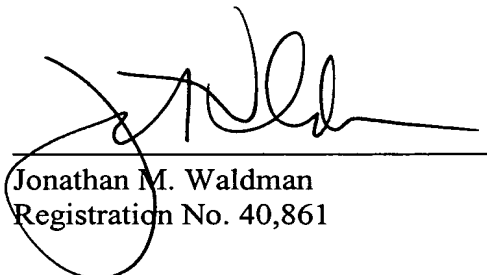
Based on the foregoing, claims 1 and 8 and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-4 and 9-11, should not be rejected as being anticipated by Gurevich or Suver. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-4 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-7 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gurevich in view of Cheng (U.S. Patent Number 6,366,934). Claims 5-7 are dependent from claim 1 and claims 12-14 are dependent from claim 8, and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Cheng fails to cure the deficiencies of Gurevich. Cheng is directed to an extender for a database system used for storing, querying, and retrieving structured documents. However, Cheng is completely silent regarding pre-computed values that are used to discern objects based on type in a hierarchical search.

Based on the foregoing, claims 5-7 and 12-14 should not be rejected as being unpatentable over Gurevich in view of Cheng. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 5-7 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

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